

What is claimed is:

1. A method of treating or preventing the inflammatory response of colitis in a subject comprising administering to the subject an effective amount of a substance that modulates NK-T cell activity.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the substance modulates NK-T cell activity by reducing NK-T cell activity.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the substance modulates NK-T cell activity by maintaining a level of NK-T cell activity.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the subject is a mouse.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the subject is a human.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein the colitis is caused by an inflammatory bowel disorder.
7. The method of claim 1, wherein the colitis is caused by an ulcerative colitis.
8. The method of claim 1, wherein the colitis is oxazolone colitis.
9. The method of claim 1, wherein the substance that modulates NK-T cell activity is an antibody.
10. The method of claim 9, wherein the antibody prevents antigen recognition.
11. The method of claim 9, wherein the antibody reduces the number of NK-T cells in the subject.
12. The method of claim 10, wherein the antibody binds to CD1.
13. The method of claim 10, wherein the antibody binds to Va14 Ja281.
14. The method of claim 10, wherein the antibody binds to Va24 Ja18.
15. A method of treating or preventing the inflammatory response of colitis in a subject comprising administering to the subject an effective amount of a substance that modulates IL-13 activity.
16. The method of claim 15, wherein the substance modulates IL-13 activity by reducing IL-13 activity.
17. The method of claim 15, wherein the substance modulates IL-13 activity by maintaining a level of IL-13 activity.
18. The method of claim 15, wherein the subject is a mouse.
19. The method of claim 15, wherein the subject is a human.
20. The method of claim 15, wherein the colitis is caused by an inflammatory bowel disorder.
21. The method of claim 15, wherein the colitis is caused by ulcerative colitis.
22. The method of claim 15, wherein the colitis is oxazolone colitis.
23. The method of claim 15, wherein the substance reduces IL-13 production.
24. The method of claim 15, wherein the substance that modulates IL-13 activity is an antibody.
25. The method of claim 15, wherein the substance is IL13R α 2-Fc.

26. The method of claim 24, wherein the antibody binds to IL-13.
27. The method of claim 24, wherein the antibody binds to the IL-13R α 2.
28. A method of screening a substance for effectiveness in reducing the inflammatory response of colitis by modulating NK-T cell activity comprising:
 - a) obtaining an animal having colitis;
 - b) administering the substance to an animal;
 - c) assaying the animal for an effect on NK-T cell activity which results in the reduction of the inflammatory response of the colitis, thereby identifying a substance effective in reducing the inflammatory response of colitis by modulating NK-T cell activity.
29. The method of claim 28, wherein the animal is a mouse.
30. The method of claim 28, wherein the colitis is oxazolone colitis.
31. The method of claim 28, wherein the animal has an established colitis produced by introducing into the colon of the animal an effective amount of a hapten reagent.
32. The method of claim 28, wherein the hapten reagent is oxazolone (4-ethoxymethylene-2-phenyl-2-oxazolin-5-one).
33. A method of screening a substance for effectiveness in reducing the inflammatory response of colitis by modulating IL-13 activity comprising:
 - a) obtaining an animal having colitis;
 - b) administering the substance to an animal;
 - c) assaying the animal for an effect on IL-13 activity which results in the reduction of the inflammatory response of the colitis, thereby identifying a substance effective in reducing the inflammatory response of colitis by modulating IL-13 activity.
34. The method of claim 33, wherein the animal is a mouse.
35. The method of claim 33, wherein the colitis is oxazolone colitis.
36. A method of screening for a substance effective in preventing the inflammatory response of colitis by modulating IL-13 activity comprising:
 - a) administering the substance to an animal susceptible to colitis;
 - b) subjecting the animal to treatment that will induce an inflammatory response; and

- c) assaying inflammatory tissue cells from the animal for an amount of secretion of IL-13, whereby a decrease or lack of increase in the amount of IL-13 in the inflammatory tissue cells of the animal as compared to an increase in the amount of IL-13 in a control animal having colitis in the absence of the substance identifies a substance that is effective in preventing the inflammatory response of colitis by modulating IL-13 activity.
37. A method of screening for a substance effective in preventing the inflammatory response of colitis by modulating NK-T cell activity comprising:
- a) administering the substance to an animal susceptible to colitis;
 - b) subjecting the animal to treatment that will induce an inflammatory response; and
 - c) assaying the animal for an effect on NK-T cell activity, whereby a decrease or lack of increase in NK-T cell activity in the inflammatory tissue cells of the animal as compared to an increase in NK-T cell activity in a control animal having colitis in the absence of the substance identifies a substance that is effective in preventing the inflammatory response of colitis by modulating NK-T cell activity.